

Fellowship Guidelines for Music Composers and Songwriters

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Please read the Artist Fellowships Overview for general eligibility criteria and a description of program goals and requirements.

Eligibility

This category is open to:

- Composers of chamber, electronic, experimental, jazz, and symphonic music
- Songwriters (writers of compositions for voice with lyrics) of Christian/gospel, folk, country, hip-hop, pop/adult contemporary, R&B, and rock/alternative songs

Collaborators should submit only one application (see Overview for more information). Artists may submit only one application per year as either the primary applicant or a collaborator.

Please note: Compositions can be scored for one or more instruments, but all will be judged as part of a single review process either in the composition or songwriting category. All work must be original.

How to Apply

You will submit your application electronically using ARTS Grants Online (AGO), a comprehensive electronic application. The system will accept all of your application materials, including work samples. No hard copy is required. Online submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, November 3, 2014.

AGO works best if you use Mozilla Firefox as your browser, though other browsers, including Internet Explorer, are also functional. If you don't have a computer at home, all public libraries have computers available for public use. [Click here for the statewide library directory.](#)

A complete fellowship application will have five components:

1. Applicant profile
2. Narrative
3. Résumé
4. Work samples and work sample descriptions
5. Support materials

Support materials are limited to scores, technical statements, lead sheets, and/or lyric sheets for each work sample submitted, as appropriate to your musical form. For additional information see Support Materials below.

Applicant Profile

This page provides us with your basic information, such as your name and ways to contact you during and at the conclusion of the process.

If you are new to our online application system, you will need to create a profile. Make sure to check “Individual” when creating your profile. In the Primary Contact Information fields, enter your name the way you would like to be listed on our database and in our application records. Your record will be alphabetized by the first letter of the name you enter in the Last Name field, so if you have a hyphenated or double last name, be sure to enter it in its entirety here. If you go by your middle name, you may enter it in the field for middle initial.

If you applied previously using the AGO online system, please review your profile and update information as needed. Should any of your contact information change during the course of the review, please correct your profile in AGO and let us know so we can update your records on our database.

At the bottom of the profile, enter your own website address, if you have one, on the Web Address line. Otherwise, leave it blank.

Once your profile is complete, go to Current Programs and Applications and click on Start Application below the heading for N.C. Artist Fellowship 2015-16.

Narrative

Before you answer the narrative questions, you must answer several further identifying questions to ensure that your name is listed correctly and that your work will be reviewed by the appropriate panel.

- Name: Please make sure the name you enter here corresponds to the name you entered in the Primary Contact Information fields in the profile.
- Discipline: The discipline you select will determine the panel that reviews your application.
- Genre/medium: The genre/medium should describe the work samples you submitted.

You will also indicate if your application is a collaboration with one or more other artists. Only one member of an artist team should submit an application for the group. Work samples should represent work by the current members of the collaborative team or, ideally, work done as a team. Members of a team cannot submit separate fellowship applications to support their own work. Eligibility requirements apply to all members of the team.

Your narrative will address the following questions:

- How do you plan to use the fellowship?
- How will receiving a fellowship impact your artistic development?
- Why is it important that you receive a fellowship at this point in your artistic career?

You will answer each question in a separate text box, with a specified character limit. The total space available to respond to all three questions is roughly one typed page. A budget page is not requested with your narrative.

The narrative is an essential part of your fellowship application. In responding to the questions, consider what a panelist, who has seen the work samples you submitted, will glean about the direction and ambitions you have for your work.

Résumé

Attach a PDF of your artist résumé emphasizing music-related activities. Include pertinent biographical details as education, employment and accomplishments, publications, residencies and honors, as well as articles and publications written about your work. We recommend that you limit the length of your résumé to no more than four pages.

Work Samples and Work Sample Descriptions

Work Samples

Work samples are the most important part of your fellowship application. Fellowships are awarded primarily on artistic merit and your work samples are the only means panelists have to assess it. Samples should represent the best of your creative ability and be of the highest possible audio quality. You must have created the work in the past three years. We encourage more recent work.

You will upload audio files of your recent work to the Audio Bank by following the instructions on the Work Sample Selection page on the AGO site. Please note that this is a two-step process: once you have uploaded the files, you will need to select the files from the Audio Bank by returning to the Work Sample Selection page in your application and following the prompts for choosing files from your Audio Bank.

You may submit up to three audio files, which should meet the following specifications:

- MP3 format
- 15 MB file size limit
- One sample per file
- Total time for all samples not to exceed 25 minutes

Work samples in formats other than MP3 will not be accepted.

Work Sample Descriptions

A work sample description is required for each piece of music that you upload to the AGO system. When you upload your audio files to the Audio Sample Bank, you will have the opportunity to describe the work or work segment in some detail, including date of completion,

duration of the piece and sample, whether the sample represents a complete work, and other information relevant to a full appreciation of the piece. Generally, the more detail you can provide, the better. Much of the information requested is self-explanatory.

Support Materials

To supplement the audio files you submit online, we also require the following support materials, which you will upload in PDF format to the Written Documents bank. Each piece of music you submit should be accompanied by a single PDF comprising all the appropriate support materials for the composition.

- For chamber, electronic, experimental, symphonic, or other instrumental music, please provide the score for each recorded work you submit.
- For electronic and experimental composition submissions, you must submit a technical statement, if you do not have a detailed score for the work. This technical statement will describe the techniques, materials, and instruments used in the creation of the submitted work samples. A technical statement or detailed score must be submitted for each work sample.
- For jazz compositions, please provide a lead sheet for each recorded work you submit.
- For songwriting submissions, please provide the lyrics and instrumentation for each uploaded song. Instrumentation may be in the form of a score or a lead sheet. Songs without lyrics will not be reviewed.

The Written Documents Bank is located below the Audio Bank. Once you have uploaded the files, you will need to select the files from the Written Document Bank by returning to the Work Sample Selection page in your application and following the prompts for choosing files from your Written Document Bank.

Submitting Your Application Online

Submit your complete application online on the AGO site by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 3, 2014. No hard copy is required, though you may want to print out or save a digital copy of the application PDF for your records.

What Happens Next

When you submit the application electronically, you will receive an automatic email confirming its receipt. Arts Council staff reviews all of the applications for eligibility and completeness and prepares them for panel review, a process that can take several months, depending on the number of submissions.

Discipline-based panels are assembled to review the applications and recommend the artists they consider most deserving of a fellowship. We then submit the panels' recommendations to the Secretary of Cultural Resources for approval.

We send letters to all of the applicants as soon as possible after approval is given, and in any case, no later than mid-summer of 2015 after the General Assembly passes a budget for the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, and the N.C. Arts Council.